

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 27, 2013

CONTACT: Kimberly Larson, 623-930-2989, Public Information Office

## **SOCIAL SERVICES RECOGNIZED THIS MONTH IN GLENDALE, NATIONALLY**

**GLENDALÉ, Ariz.** – Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers has issued a proclamation declaring April as Fair Housing Month in Glendale. In addition, the Mayor proclaimed April 1-6 as National Community Development Week in recognition of the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

The city of Glendale administers these federal programs, with support and implementation through the Housing and Community Revitalization divisions, both part of the Neighborhood & Human Services Department.

Each April, the federal government commemorates the passing of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which was enacted in an effort to ensure all people the right to fair housing choice. Under the Fair Housing Act, it is unlawful to discriminate in any aspect of selling or renting housing or to deny a dwelling to a buyer or renter because of the disability of that person, a person associated with the buyer or renter, or a person who plans to live in the residence. Since its passage, it has helped open doors for countless people. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development continues to work to increase public awareness of the fair housing laws, especially in the month of April.

The city of Glendale shares this commitment. Through the federal CDBG program, the city has contracted with Community Legal Services to help citizens resolve fair housing issues. Community Legal Services, a non-profit law firm, has provided civil legal counseling and aid to Glendale residents since 1952. The mission of Community Legal Services is to strengthen families, protect against domestic violence and homelessness and protect against unlawful denial of services such as health care, public school education, wages, government benefits and equal access to housing.

## **Fair Housing/CDBG**

### **Add 1.1.1**

Similarly, Glendale and other cities around the country recognize and celebrate the great work achieved through the CDBG and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs.

Glendale began receiving CDBG funds in 1978 to help address locally identified community needs. The funding priorities are established through an extensive public process which results in a City Council adopted Annual Action Plan. It identifies and provides funding to help revitalize neighborhoods through partnerships with for-profit and non-profit partners, who leverage other resources to improve the physical, economic and social conditions in our neighborhoods. Glendale has received approximately \$68 million over the course of the past 35 years. This program also helps fund public services such as the YWCA Meals on Wheels, St Mary's Food Bank Alliance Emergency Food Box Program and many others. Over the years, CDBG has funded many community projects such as the East Catlin Court Street Improvement and Lighting Project, Energy Efficiency Improvements to our Public Housing Properties, Downtown Street Improvement Projects and the Visual Improvement Program (VIP) used for facade and other exterior improvements for our downtown merchants.

Other programs that help residents include Glendale Housing Rehabilitation and Emergency Home Repair, which provide much needed home repairs to qualified Glendale homeowners. Glendale also acknowledges the great partnerships that make these programs highly effective, such as the one with Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona. Through Habitat, businesses and corporations work hand-in-hand with volunteers from the faith-based community and others, to provide a hand up, not a hand out, to hard-working families and individuals.

For more information on Housing and Community Revitalization in Glendale, call Gilbert Lopez at 623-930-3670 or visit [www.glendaleaz.com](http://www.glendaleaz.com). For questions regarding fair housing, call Community Legal Services at 602-258-3434.

###